

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgements

1. This action is in reply to the Amendment After Final filed on August 5, 2011.
2. Claims 1, 4-7, 9-15, and 18-25 are currently pending and have been examined.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 24, 2011 has been considered. An initialed copy of the Form 1449 is enclosed herewith.

Reasons for Allowance

4. Regarding the claimed terms, Examiner notes that a “general term must be understood in the context in which the inventor presents it.” In re Glaug, 283 F.3d 1335, 1340, 62 USPQ2d 1151, 1154 (Fed. Cir. 2002). Therefore, Examiner must interpret the claimed terms as found on pages 1-26 of the specification. Clearly almost all the general terms in the claims may have multiple meanings. So where a claim term “is susceptible to various meanings... the inventor’s lexicography must prevail.” *Id.* An exception to this rule is where “means for” language is used. Using these definitions for the claims, the claimed invention was not reasonably found in the prior art.
5. The closest prior art of record is Girault et al. (US 5,768,379), Arnold (US 6,456,716), and Boman et al. (US 7,564,350).
6. The prior art of record discloses a conventional system for checking of limited access to authorized time slots renewable by means of a portable storage device.

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7. The prior art of record, however, does not teach at least these elements of claim 1:

- a. receiving through an interface of an electronic seal... signed by the first entity;
- b. receiving... geographic location data... entities.

8. Yet even if the missing claimed elements were found in a reasonable number of references, a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would **not** have been motivated to include these missing elements in an embodiment of the prior art disclosures because traditionally an electronic seal on a container does not receive geographic location data and verify a signed container control certificate.

9. Note, in this case claim 1 is a method claim that recites the limitation “receiving in the electronic seal associated with the container, geographic location data from a location recording device... entities.” Based upon the broadest reasonable interpretation, Examiner finds that a “location recording device” is hardware. Additionally, claim 1 recites the limitation “storing the container control certificate in the log of the electronic seal.” Because the certificate is “stored” in the electronic seal, Examiner finds that said electronic seal includes hardware (i.e. storage device). Thus, Examiner interprets claim 1 as necessarily requiring a machine because the location recording device and electronic seal require use of a machine.

10. Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Chrystina Zelaskiewicz whose telephone number is 571.270.3940. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30am-5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Andrew Fischer can be reached at 571.272.6779.

12. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair> <<http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866.217.9197 (toll-free).

/Chrystina Zelaskiewicz/
Examiner, Art Unit 3621
August 29, 2011